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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Comments on Political and Economic Conditions in Czechoslovakia	DATE DISTR.	1 September 1955
		NO. OF PAGES	6
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 50X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	50X1
DATE ACQUIRED			

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ABSTRACT

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)																

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in the mines would count toward the completion of their military service and that they would have their evenings and holidays to themselves while at the mines. Since their ordinary service pay was only 70 crowns a month and since they had had very little free time to date, some forty men of the 150 [redacted] allowed themselves to be persuaded to ask for temporary assignment as soldier-coal miners.

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5. In considering Communist policy toward intelligent young conscripts with bourgeois and anti-Communist backgrounds, it may be seen that Communist policy toward those with such backgrounds is generally too rigid to allow their assignment to sensitive positions in spite of superior qualifications. It seems, however, that the great need now felt for capable persons in such positions has justified some relaxation of security standards although not with regard to the armed forces. There is ample evidence that such a de facto relaxation of standards has been applied in the last year or so to ex-bourgeois capable of doing good work in important economic, scientific and technical jobs. It seems, however, that the political security standards for sensitive positions in the armed forces and in the political administration are still nearly as high as they have ever been.

Communism and Youth

6. [redacted] of the 58 students in his 1952 graduating class at the gymnasium in Most (N 50-32, E 13-39) only five appeared to be convinced supporters of Communism. Another 10 or 12 were opportunists who pretended to be pro-Communists without actually being convinced believers. Two or three students were fairly openly anti-Communist. [redacted] The

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 26 July 1955

SUBJECT Comments on Political and Economic
Conditions in Czechoslovakia

NO. OF PAGES 5

DATE OF INFORMATION Prior to April 1955

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In some military units, where no volunteers were forthcoming, there was undoubtedly discrimination against non-Communists in selecting soldiers for temporary duty in mines. however, there was no discrimination of this kind because the unit was able to meet its quota with volunteers. The men there had been given to understand that they would receive regular coal miners' wages of as much as 1600 crowns a month if they volunteered. They were also told that the time spent

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[redacted] were anti-Communists who were afraid to express their views and so could be classed only as passive opponents of the regime. [redacted] the political opinions of his classmates were probably fairly representative of the opinions of Czechoslovak youth in general. [redacted] in the villages there were probably even fewer convinced Communists than in the towns, and that there were probably also fewer convinced Communists among the young people now than there had been when he finished gymnasium three years ago. The largest grievance of young people was their lack of freedom to choose their own careers. The pressure on students to go into agriculture and other fields to which the government is giving priority at the moment was particularly resented, as was the indirect compulsion used to recruit labor for poor-paying work in the ex-Sudeten border regions.

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7. The Communist Youth Movement (CSM) was quite without influence on young people. [redacted] sufficient pressure had been put on the students after 1950 so that everybody held membership cards in the organization. More or less compulsory membership meetings were held once a month, but otherwise the organization was inactive. In the armed forces, the work of the CSM was even less inspiring, since the compulsion for everyone to belong and on members to take part in the meetings was more acutely felt.

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8. In military service there was naturally even more caution about displaying anti-Communist sentiments than in civil life. Nevertheless [redacted] not more than 20 of the approximately 120 conscripts in [redacted] were convinced Communists. Another 30 were opportunists, and five to seven were perhaps passive or discreet anti-Communists.

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9. [redacted] Communist influence was very strong on children below the age of 14 and that perhaps as many as 80% of them were pro-Communist. However, as soon as the young people became old enough to have their own ideas, their Communist ideas rapidly disappeared. The pro-Communists probably were no more than 35% of the 14-to-17 age group in the cities and 20% in the villages. In the 18-to-25 age group, there were probably still fewer convinced Communists -- perhaps 10% in the cities and five per cent in the towns. [redacted] in the older groups the numbers of the pro-Communists declined further, so that among people over 35 years of age there were only between five and eight per cent convinced supporters of the regime in the cities and between three and four per cent in the rural areas.

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10. [redacted] the strength of the Communists among the population had declined recently. [redacted] the present international situation was responsible for this. The exposure of the USSR's economic difficulties and the generally conciliatory line the Communists have taken in both domestic and foreign affairs have given people the impression that the Communists are not as strong as they were. When people believe this, they become bolder in expressing their grievances and in opposing Communist indoctrination and less resigned to the prospect of a near eternity of Communist rule.

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11. [redacted] no information about juvenile delinquency in Czechoslovakia. It was his general impression that the problem was not a particularly important one. There was much talk about youngsters who had their own odd notions about stylish clothes and jazz music -- the so-called "paskove" -- [redacted] did not think they were either a serious problem for the regime or for their families. They were mostly young workers without family responsibilities who chose to spend what money they had in their own way. The fact that the style

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of their clothing was not that of the state textile monopoly did not mean that their behavior was politically anti-Communist, though indirectly it was undoubtedly a form of protest against the regime which tried to regulate everything. [redacted] not aware of any significant part played by sons of the new Communist well-to-do among these more or less wayward young people.

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Possible Revision of 1955 Economic Plans

12.

[redacted] at the end of March 1955 that the third and fourth quarter 1955 production and financial plans for industry in the Most area would probably be revised downward.

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[redacted] the reductions would be made because of manpower shortages.

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[redacted] absenteeism was a serious problem in all factories and that there had been little change in the absentee rate in industry in the last year

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13.

[redacted] the changes to be expected in the plans of the enterprises reporting to the Investment Bank in Most. These were all in the heavy industry category

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[redacted] the same reductions in plans in the third and fourth quarters would also be made in other sectors of the economy and in other parts of the country as well -- in short, that there would be across-the-board cuts instead of selective ones indicative of any policy decisions to change the existing order of priorities in the economic plans worked out at the end of 1954.

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14.

There were evidently still tendencies for increases in wages to outrun increases in output, in spite of the efforts of the authorities to prevent this. The bank [redacted] could authorize disbursements to cover labor costs in excess of the amounts budgeted in the firms' wages funds, provided the excess in one month was less than six per cent of the plan and provided there had been no overdraft on the wages fund the previous month. A second consecutive overdraft could not be covered by the bank without the additional approval of the central administration of the firm (hlavni sprava) [redacted] A third consecutive overdraft had to be reported directly to the Minister of Finance. All cases in which labor costs exceeded the plan by more than six per cent had to be reported to the Minister of Finance at once, even if the previous months' results had been satisfactory.

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15.

[redacted] the Construction Works of the North Bohemian Browncoal Basin was ordered investigated by officials in Prague when it was found that the Works had used unauthorized means to meet its financial plan and to pay its laborers. The firm should have had only 270 employees but actually kept about 300 on the payroll. The extra employees had been kept on because the firm had made a great deal of money over and above receipts from its planned production by selling electric motors, including spare parts, and the like to other enterprises at black market prices.

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